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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, You are our source of hope and salvation. So why should we be afraid? You have been our fortress when evil has seemed to be winning. So why should we tremble? Lord, keep us fearless even when surrounded by predatory evil. Even when there is violence within our Nation, give us confidence that Your purposes will prevail. Today, use our lawmakers as instruments of Your peace.

Hear this prayer, mighty God, for Your faithfulness continues to sustain us.

We pray in our Redeemer's Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 7, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK,

a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alex Wagner, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as the Senate's June work period begins, the American people have one question front of mind: After years and decades of gridlock, will the Senate do something about our Nation's gun violence epidemic?

Democrats are ready to take action, and soon every single Member of this Chamber is going to have to answer that question.

Today is June 7, 2022. It is the 158th day of the year. Already—already—this

year, we have had over 250 mass shootings—over 250. That is more than one a day.

Two weeks ago, we saw the worst school shooting in America since the tragedy at Sandy Hook. An 18-year-old boy bought two assault rifles for his birthday and gunned down 19 children in Uvalde, TX—9-year-olds, 10-year-olds, 11-year-olds. You see the pictures of kids with their sweatshirts, with their awards, with their trophies. Every parent has seen pictures of children that age, and to know that they are no longer—that they were wiped out, that they were brutally murdered—breaks your heart. It just sends shivers down your spine. A few hours later, after it happened, the parents realized and were told they would never see their children again.

Ten days before that, eleven more people were gunned down while grocery shopping in Buffalo, simply because of the color of their skin. I still can't get out of my mind the 3-year-old I met, when I visited Buffalo, who lost his dad because his dad made a quick stop to the Tops Supermarket to get his son a birthday cake. It was his son's birthday. He will never see his dad again and will live with that his whole life—knowing that his dad was killed in order to get him a birthday cake.

And for every tragedy that traumatizes the Nation's collective psyche, there are countless others that take place outside the national spotlight. They happen every single day in homes and communities in every part of this country. Across every neighborhood, every school, every small town, every large city, Americans of all persuasions are wondering the same thing: When is it going to be enough? When will Congress find the will to act? One party has that will and soon will determine whether the other side on the aisle will join. That is the challenge that faces this Chamber as we begin this work period.

Before Memorial Day, I made clear that the Senate will vote on gun safety

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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